

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. With this amendment, claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 14, 15, and 17-20 have been amended, and claims 3 and 12 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**I. Objection to Claims**

The examiner objected to claims 5, 8, 9, 14, 17, and 18 because of informalities. Applicants have amended these claims to refer to a storage "device". This objection is believed to be overcome by the amendments to these claims and should be withdrawn.

**II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation**

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 10-11, 14, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,253,289 published by *Bates*. Independent claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended to include the feature of determining an average number of contiguous sequential blocks accessed for each one of the plurality of I/O requests. This feature appeared in original claims 3 and 12, which the Office Action finds is allowable subject matter. Therefore, in view of the amendments to the independent claims, Applicants believe this rejection should be withdrawn.

**III. Allowable Subject Matter**

The examiner has stated that claims 3-4, 6-10, 12-13, 15-18, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the claims have been rewritten to overcome this objection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original claim 3. Claim 10 has been amended to include the features of original claim 12. Claim 19 has been amended to include features that are similar to the features of original claims 3 and 12. Since the independent claims have been rewritten to include features that the Office Action finds are allowable, Applicants believe the independent claims, are now in condition for allowance.

**IV. Conclusion**

Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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